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SILVER SPRING, MD (June 29, 2023) - The National Black Nurses Association, Inc (NBNA) joins other professional nursing organizations and associations, civil rights groups, and many major universities in denouncing the detrimental Supreme Court's ruling against race conscious (affirmative action) college admissions. This decision dismantles over four decades of settled law that was enacted to help provide access to higher education for historically disenfranchised Black and other communities of color.

In the partisan decision to strike down this precedent in a landmark ruling, the highest court in the land appears to have conveyed its support for continued systemic and structural racism. The ruling blatantly ignores the reality of long term societal racial inequities and inequalities that stem from 300 years of legalized racial oppression in the United States.

The nursing profession, at **11%** Black/African American, is not racially or ethnically diverse, and this ruling will adversely impact admissions to schools and colleges of nursing maintaining this disproportionate deficit. The nursing profession's ability to deliver culturally relevant and equitable care to all depends on creating a nursing workforce that mirrors the racial and ethnic diversity of the country's population.

NBNA is a longtime advocate for holistic, race-conscious admissions to nursing programs that promote diversity in the profession while decreasing health disparities and supporting health equity. The court's decision is a monumental disappointing setback to these goals.

NBNA will continue to call on Congress, healthcare leaders, and other policy makers to support legislation that promotes justice, equity, diversity, equality, and inclusion in the nursing profession overall and in schools of nursing admission practices.

About the National Black Nurses Association, Inc

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) was organized in 1971 under the leadership of Dr. Lauranne Sams, former Dean and Professor of Nursing, School of Nursing, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama. NBNA is a non-profit organization incorporated on September 2, 1972, in the state of Ohio. NBNA represents 308,000 African American registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, nursing students and retired nurses from the USA, Eastern Caribbean and Africa, with 114 chartered chapters, in 34 states.

The NBNA mission is "to serve as the voice for Black nurses and diverse populations ensuring equal access to professional development, promoting educational opportunities and improving health." NBNA chapters offer voluntary hours providing health education and screenings to community residents in collaboration with community-based partners, including faith-based organizations, civic, fraternal, hospitals, and schools of nursing.

For more information visit us at <https://www.nbna.org/>